

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9359

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSMACHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 16461

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJECT: RECENT INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN NAKAE DISTRICT OF  
NAKHON PHANOM

1. TWO ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE AUGUST 8 ISSUE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE "BANGKOK POST" REPORT RECENT COMMUNIST TERRORIST (CT) ACTIVITY IN NAKAE DISTRICT OF NAKHON PHANOM PROVINCE IN NORTHEAST THAILAND. ALTHOUGH INSURGENT-INITIATED ACTIVITY IS ON THE UPSWING IN NAKAE, CASUALTIES REPORTED BY ISOC FOR JULY WERE MUCH LOWER THAN THE 23 KILLED AND 49 WOUNDED REPORTED IN THE TWO ARTICLES.

2. THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN THAT PHANOM DISTRICT OF NAKHON PHANOM AND THE SAKON NAKHON PROVINCIAL CAPITAL PASSES THROUGH NAKAE DISTRICT TOWN IN THE NORTHERN PORTION OF THE DISTRICT. ALTHOUGH RARE, AMBUSHES DO OCCUR ON THIS HIGHWAY IS FREQUENT. DURING MAY AND JUNE, THERE WERE FOUR CT ATTACKS AGAINST POLICE AND PARAMILITARY POSTS JUST TO THE SOUTH OF THE HIGHWAY NEAR THE NAKAE-SAKON NAKHON BORDER. THE HIGHWAY IS LOCATED IN THE LOWLANDS ABOUT SIX KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE PHU PHAN MOUNTAINS. THE SEVEN POLICEMEN AMBUSHED BY APPROXIMATELY 50 CT ON JULY 30 WERE TRAVELING ON A SPUR ROAD THAT RUNS FROM JUST EAST OF NAKAE DISTRICT  
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TOWN SOUTHWARD THROUGH THE EASTERNMOST PORTION OF THE PHU

PHANS TO TAMBON DONG LUANG (VD 5259) THEN EASTWARD INTO THAT PHANOM DISTRICT, LINKING UP WITH ROUTE 212 (THE NORTH-SOUTH HIGHWAY IN NAKHON PHANOM) AT VE 6560. ACTIVITY ALONG THIS ROAD IS INTENSE, WITH TWO AMBUSHES REPORTED IN JUNE IN ADDITION TO OTHER MILITARY ACTIVITY ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD. ACCORDING TO ISOC REPORTING, THE POLICEMEN SUFFERED TWO KIA AND ONE WIA BUT DID NOT REPORT ANY CT CASUALTIES.

3. VIOLENT CT-INITIATED ACTIVITY IS INCREASING IN NAKAE AND DISTRICTS BORDERING IT. THERE WERE 22 VIOLENT INCIDENTS, INCLUDING CLASHES, AMBUSHES, AND ATTACKS AGAINST RTG POSITIONS, REPORTED IN NAKHON PHANOM THROUGH ISOC CHANNELS DURING JULY. SEVENTEEN OF THE INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE IN THE LAST 15 DAYS OF THE MONTH. TOTAL PRELIMINARY CASUALTIES FOR JULY IN NAKHON PHANOM WERE 12 RTG OFFICIALS (INCLUDING RTA, POLICE AND PARAMILITARY FORCES) KIA AND 22 WIA. FOUR VILLAGERS WERE ALSO WOUNDED DURING THE MONTH. THERE WERE NO CONFIRMED CT CASUALTIES REPORTED THROUGH ISOC CHANNELS. NAKAE CONTINUES AS A HOTSPOT EVEN WITH CONSTANT RTA PRESENCE IN THE DISTRICT. NAKAE FALLS WITHIN THE CPT NAKHON PHANOM PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE AREA, WHERE AN ESTIMATED 1,500 ARMED CT OPERATE. IT POSSIBLY IS THE HOME OF THE CPT CENTRAL COMMITTEE NORTHEAST BRANCH, SUSPECTED TO BE LOCATED IN THE PHU PHANS IN THE WESTERN PORTION OF THE DISTRICT. (BANGKOK'S A-82 OF MARCH 20, 1974 PROVIDES GOOD BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON NAKAE DISTRICT AND THE INSURGENT APPARATUS ESTABLISHED THERE.) WHITEHOUSE

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